



San Diego City Attorney CASEY GWINN

MEDIA RELEASE

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SECONDHAND RESALE STORE SENTENCED FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS

San Diego, CA (March 19, 2001) — A local secondhand resale store has learned the hard way about the importance of California's laws to help crime victims recover stolen property. Today, Retreads, Inc., the corporate owner of Retreads, a secondhand resale store, pleaded guilty to two violations of purchasing items for resale without getting proper identification and evidence of ownership from the sellers.

San Diego Superior Court Commissioner Sandra L. Berry ordered the corporation to pay a \$1,000 fine, send public service announcements to all secondhand dealers warning them to comply with the reporting laws, and pay a \$200 restitution fine. Retreads, Inc. was also placed on probation for three years and was ordered not to buy items for resale from sellers off the street. Retreads' President Joan Seifried did not enter a plea, but agreed to sell the business within six months and complete 100 hours of community work service.

On February 17, 1999, Joan Seifried's secondhand permit was placed on one-year administrative probation for not properly reporting items purchased for resale. On November 7, 2000, the City Attorney's Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit filed misdemeanor charges against Retreads, Inc. and Joan Seifried for subsequent seller identification and reporting violations.

California law requires secondhand dealers to document all purchases of personal property for resale. Secondhand dealers must ask for a seller's identification and confirm the seller owns or has the right to sell the property. For items with serial numbers or other identifying marks, a secondhand dealer must report the purchase within the next business day to the San Diego Police Department. The secondhand dealer cannot resell the item for thirty days. During that period, the Police Department checks whether the item has been reported as stolen.

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